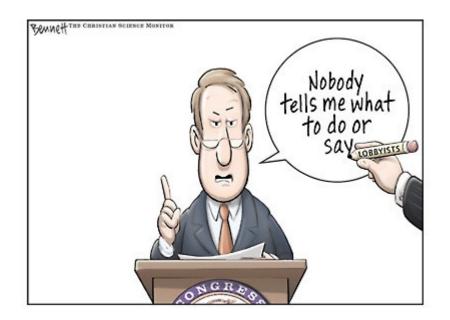
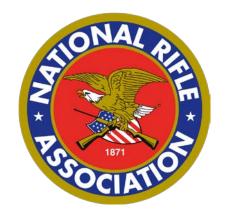
Beyond pluralism and elitism: How much influence do special interests have on the content of congressional legislation?

By: Kyle Johnson

Introduction

Interest groups in society How is power exercised?









Why it matters?

Democracy

Individual voice



@John Branch.

Previous Research (classics)

Pluralism

- Robert Dahl Who Governs: Democracy and power in an American City
- David Truman The Governmental process: Political Interests and Public Opinion
- Seymour Lipset Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics

Elitism

- C Wright Mills The Power Elite
- E E Schattschneider The Semisovereign People: A realist's view of democracy in America
- G William Domhoff Who Rules America Now?

Previous Research (recent)

Contributions matter

- Elections and congressional votes. Brunell, T. L. (2005) and Stratmann, T. (1998)
- Roll Call votes. Constant, L. M. (2006), Brooks, J., Cameron, A., & Carter, C. (1998), and Mallinson,
 D. J. (2014)
- Legislative involvement and committee. Hall, R., & Wayman, F. (1990)

Contributions do not matter

- Constituent influence. Smith, J. (2015), Bianco, W. (1994)
- Tenuous link between contributions and votes. Milyo, J. (1997)

Money matters, not contributions

- Lobbyists improve odds. McKay, A. (2012)
- Resources and knowledge. Hojnacki, M., & Kimball, D. C. (1998)

Case studies



• Remove provision from Dodd-Frank



Energy Task Force sponsored by fossil fuel industry



 Exempted from new regulations for coal power plants



Thanks for listening!

Any que stions?